

Cross-Party Group on Europe

Minutes of the meeting and AGM held on the 10th of September 2024 at 6pm on Microsoft Teams

Present

MSPs

Michell Thomson, Katy Clark, Patrick Harvie, Ben McPherson

Non MSP's

Mark Adams, Law Society of Scotland

John Edward, Scottish Council on Global Affairs

Chris Sagan

Councillor Annette Christie, Glasgow City Council

Rory Chapman, Scottish Advisory Forum on Europe

Elise Tallaron

Richard Tallaron

David Clark, European Movement in Scotland

Jo Goodburn, European Movement in Scotland

Bill Rodger, European Movement in Scotland

Dr Rogelia Pastor-Castro, University of Strathclyde

Diane Macintyre from Michell Thomson MSP's office

Eddie Nicolls from Foysol Choudhury MSP's office

Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP, Annabelle Ewing MSP, Councillor Martha Mattos Coelho, Mark Lazarowicz, Peter Ferry – Consol of Estonia, Irene Oldfather – SAFE.

Agenda item 1

Katy Clark, welcomed members to the meeting. David McDonald briefly introduced each of the CPG members in attendance.

The CPG heard about two activities carried out with its support, firstly in November 2023 when the EU start of unity and the European Parliaments representative in the UK Susanne Oberhauser visited the Parliament. Secondly the policy roundtable discussion held in April 2024 on the impact of Brexit on touring musicians, which included a number of speakers form the music industry and busking sessions with musicians outside parliament.

The CPG noted the support for these events offered by Diane McIntyre from Michell Thomsons MSP's office.

At this point Katy Clark invited Michelle Thomson to Chair the election of office bearers.

The following MPS's where elected to serve as office bearers

Katy Clark and Patrick Harvie were elected as co-conveners
Ben McPherson was elected as the Vice Convener

In addition David McDonald was elected as Secretary and Bill Rodgers as Treasurer.

Katy Clark then introduced the dates and topics agreed for the next 3 meetings of the CPG.

On November 19th focused on Erasmus+, February 18th on the environment and agriculture and finally May 6th on building links with Europe's Institutions.

Additional meetings in co-operation with other CPG's will also be explored.

Agenda item 3

Patrick Harvie chaired the Member Updates

John Edward from SCGA spoke about upcoming events which he would share with the CPG once confirmed.

Cllr Annette Christie, explained that Glasgow was now the Chair of the Eurocities Social Affairs Forum and that Glasgow hosted a visit by the European Heritage Hub. She detailed a previous visit from Pedro Serran, the EU Ambassador to the UK to Glasgow and a future visit in October by Susanne Oberhauser.

Rory Chapman, highlighted the work of the Scottish Advisory Forum on Europe which had grown its membership and he reminded member about the upcoming event on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Chris Sagen updated the CPG on the work of the Glasgow European Citizens Forum which has been established with the support of the City Council to represent the interests of EU citizens living in Glasgow.

Patrick Harvie explained that earlier in the day the Parliament has debated the Internal Market Act, a motion was submitted calling for the act to be repealed.

Agenda item 4

There was no other business proposed, and Patrick Harvie closed the meeting.